

February 13, 2003

Honorable Michael Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20544

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a business owner and member of the Ohio NFIB Board, I would like to encourage the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to enact rules to eliminate unnecessary regulations on the telecommunications industry. Such action would create a national framework that provides incentives for investment, which will naturally lead to long-term, sustainable competition in the telecommunications industry.

I have been made aware that these rules have cost more than 500,000 jobs during the past 3 years, while more than \$1.7 trillion in stock market capitalization has evaporated and capital spending has been severely curtailed. In a region like southwestern Ohio, which is heavily dependent on the telecommunications industry to foster economic growth, telecommunications companies should have the flexibility needed to invest and expand.

I also believe the FCC should not extend unbundling requirements to broadband facilities. Freeing broadband investment from costly unbundling requirements will encourage industry investment and deployment of valuable new technologies nationwide. The products and services provided by broadband technologies will add significant value, efficiencies and capabilities to small and large businesses across the U.S. A recent study released by the Progress and Freedom Foundation found that eliminating the current unbundling regime would result in the creation of 1.115 million new jobs in the communications sector and an increase in capital spending of \$169.5 billion over the next five years. Since our community is currently dependent on manufacturing jobs, any possibility to diversify our workforce to include high-tech communications jobs is wholeheartedly supported.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Scott Lipps  
President – Homecare Consultants  
Board – Ohio NFIB  
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Franklin, Ohio 45005